COMPARATIVE LITERATURE 255
COLLOQUIUM

Fall 2011, UC Davis

W 12:10-2:00 pm, 822 Sproul Hall

Professor Sheldon Lu
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Course Description
History, theory, and methodology of comparative literature; issues of national literature, world literature, and comparative literature; relation between comparative literature and other disciplines and mediums; oral presentation; critique of research papers; discussion of current problems in teaching and research in comparative literature. Required for all entering comparative literature students.

Course Expectation
Steady attendance and participation in class discussion. Read assigned materials for each week on time. One presentation/book report. Circulate, read, and critique fellow classmates’ papers (potential conference papers/publishable papers) toward the end of the course.

Required Texts
- Course Reader
SYLLABUS

Week 1 (9/28)
Introduction

Week 2 (10/5)
What is Comparative Literature? Definition, Institution, Discipline

- “Comparative Literature: Its Definition and Function,” Henry Remak, Reader
- Three Reports to the American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA), in Reader
  ----The Levin Report, 1965
  ----The Greene Report, 1975
  ----The Bernheimer Report, 1993

Week 3 (10/12)
The Crisis of Comparative Literature, the State of the Field

- “Introduction: The Anxieties of Comparison,” Charles Bernheimer, in Reader
- “In the Name of Comparative Literature,” Rey Chow, in Reader

Week 4 (10/19)
Comparative Literature, Cultural Studies, Area Studies

- Death of a Discipline, Chapter 1, “Crossing Borders,” Gayatri C. Spivak, Reader
- “On the Complementarity of Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies,” Michael Riffaterre, Reader
- “Global Literature and the Technologies of Recognition,” Shu-mei Shih, PMLA 119.1 (2004), available online

Week 5 (10/26)
World Literature

- “Goethe Coins a Phrase,” David Damrosch, Reader
- “Third World Literature in the Era of Multinational Capitalism,” Fredric Jameson, Social Text 15 (Fall 1986), available online
- “Conjectures on World Literature,” Franco Moretti, New Left Review 1 (Jan-Feb. 2000), available online
Week 6 (11/2)
Humanism, Eurocentrism, Orientalism
- Mimesis, Chapter 1, “Odysseus’ Scar,” Erich Auerbach, Reader
- Culture and Imperialism, “Connecting Empire to Secular Interpretation,” pp. 43-61, Edward Said, Reader
- Orientalism, “Introduction,” Edward Said, Reader

Week 7 (11/9)
Comparative Literature and Theory

Week 8 (11/16)
Comparative Literature and Translation
- “Global Translatio: The ‘Invention’ of Comparative Literature, Istanbul, 1933,” Emily Apter, Reader

Week 9 (11/23)
Comparative Literature and Other Disciplines and Arts
- “Situating World Cinema as a Theoretical Problem,” Stephanie Dennison and Song-hwee Lim, Reader

Week 10 (11/30)
Practical Matters of the Profession
How to write a conference paper or a publishable paper;
Circulate, read, and critique fellow classmates’ draft papers;
The MLA Handbook;
Journals, associations, institutions, conferences, job lists.
Select Bibliography
(Pick one for a book report; a relevant book outside this list is OK too)

- Weisstein, Ulrich. *Einführung in die vergleichende Literaturwissenschaft*. Stuttgart: Kohlhammer, 1968. (There is an English version—*Comparative Literature and Literary Theory*, but our library does not seem to have it.)


**COURSE READER CONTENTS**


- Three Reports to the American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA)
  -----The Levin Report, 1965
  -----The Greene Report, 1975
  -----The Bernheimer Report, 1993
  (from *Comparative Literature in the Age of Multiculturalism*, ed. Charles Bernheimer)

- “Introduction: The Anxieties of Comparison,” Charles Bernheimer (from Bernheimer anthology)

- “In the Name of Comparative Literature,” Rey Chow (from Bernheimer anthology)

- *Death of a Discipline*, Chapter 1, “Crossing Borders,” Gayatri C. Spivak

- “On the Complementarity of Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies,” Michael Riffaterre (from Bernheimer anthology)

- “Goethe Coins a Phrase,” David Damrosch (from *What is World Literature?* by Damrosch)

- *Mimesis*, Chapter 1, “Odysseus’ Scar,” Erich Auerbach

- *Culture and Imperialism*, “Connecting Empire to Secular Interpretation,” Edward Said

- *Orientalism*, “Introduction,” Edward Said

- “Global Translatio: The ‘Invention’ of Comparative Literature, Istanbul, 1933,” Emily Apter (from *The Translation Zone: A New Comparative Literature* by Apter)


- “Situating World Cinema as a Theoretical Problem,” Stephanie Dennison and Song-hwee Lim (from *Remapping World Cinema: Identity, Culture and Politics in Film*, ed. Dennison and Lim)